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The next number of this publication instead of being no. 12. Vol. 22. is no. 1. of a new vol and is in different size and form.

# VICKS MAGAZINE

VOL. 22

ROCHESTER, N. Y., SEPTEMBER, 1899.

NO. 11

## BULB MISCELLANY.

THE little white Roman hyacinth increases faster in amateur cultivation than any other. We love to grow our tulips in narrow borders, very thickly planted, early and late kinds together, having a care only to the tasteful contrast of colors. In this way we have flowers in the border from the time the Duc van Thols open (usually in February here), until the Gesnerianas close the season about six weeks or two months later. If you have potted tulips for the house, don't try to hurry them too much. The blooms are surer and finer if allowed to form slowly.

Snowdrops are prettiest when planted in the grass, about three inches deep, and four or five bulbs together. Plant them with a dibble all through the sod as you do crocuses.

Crocuses and snowdrops are pretty mingled, when sometimes, as with us, they bloom simultaneously. They are about the cheapest bulbs in the market, and the very cheeriest flowers of early spring. Their white and purple and gold always remind me of the embroidered robes of the old Bible priests. We plant them under the outer overhanging branches of shrubby borders, for the reason that the flowers of the crocus do best in full sun, while the bulbs develop better when in partial shade. In this location they flower before the shrubs put out their leaves, and afterward are shaded by the leafy branches hanging above.

The bulbous irises are so pretty that I want to remind people of them now, while they are ordering their bulbs. Iris reticulata blooms with the crocuses and is a little beauty. The English and Spanish irises make a gay show in early summer. They are happy with the same treatment given to daffodils. I. Persica and I. Susiana are already pretty well known.

We have some cyclamen that are hardy here in the south, and doubtless would prove so elsewhere. C. Europeum is, I think, hardy, even in Vermont with a protection of leaves. Its flowers are not so large as the C. Persicum giganteum of to-day, of course, but they are delightfully fragrant, and so are the flowers of the ivy-leaved cyclamen (C. hederæfolium), another hardy variety. These two bloom during late summer and fall. C. Coum and C. Atkinsii in early spring. They love well-drained, but moderately moist ground containing leaf-mold, and they do not love sweeping winds or hot sunshine. A warm nook against a wall where the sun cannot blaze full upon them in summer nor the winds sweep off the necessary light covering of leaves in winter, suits them nicely.

That beautiful tall native lily, L. superbum, is desirable for planting among and under clumps of rhododendrons and azaleas. Their leaves give its bulbs the necessary shade, and when the shrub's flowers have faded the lilies take up the color theme and carry it out gloriously. Most of our bright-colored lilies, such as superbum, Canadense, elegans,

Wallacei, tigrinum, pomponium, monadelphum, pardalinum, etc., multiply very rapidly and grow stronger every year, giving more, larger, and brighter colored flowers.

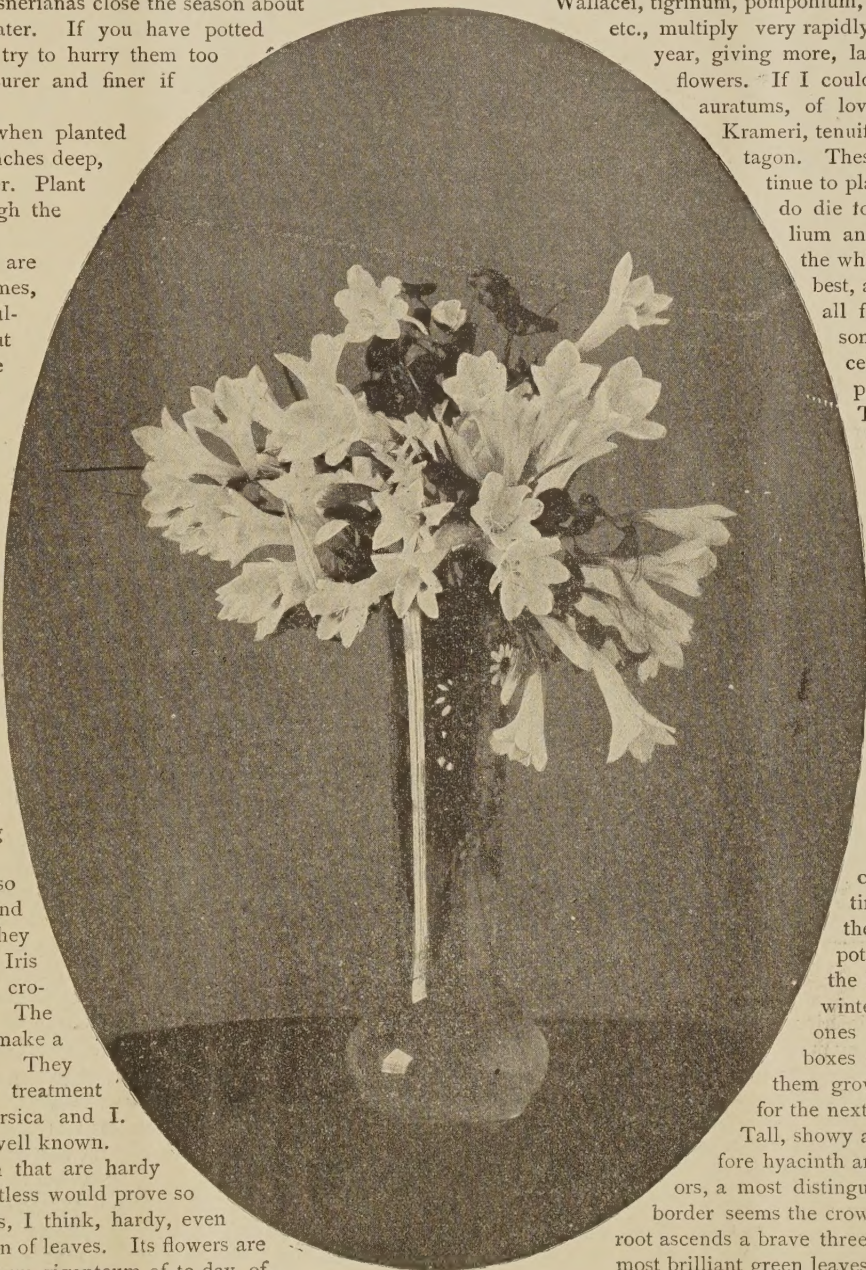
If I could only say the same of the auratums, of lovely, creamy-buff excelsum, Krameri, tenuifolium, and the scarlet Mar- tagon. These last, however, I shall continue to plant every year, even if they

do die for me the next. L. tenuifolium and L. Krameri are, next to the white lilies, the ones I like the best, and they are the hardest of all for me to grow. Will not some one who has been successful with them give the experience in these pages?

Tuck your freesias into their pots as soon as the small white bulbs can be procured. August is none too soon, and September is late enough. Experimenting will soon convince you that one great cause of failure with this dainty and fragrant little flower is the difficulty in procuring the bulbs early enough. Try making a special order to your florist for them in July. If you grow your own freesias on from year to year, taking good care of the increase, you may overcome this difficulty. Some time in July or August shake them out of their soil in the pots and sort them, replanting the larger ones in fresh soil for winter blooming. The smaller ones plant in flats or shallow boxes of rich, sandy soil, and let them grow along sturdily and slowly for the next year's bloom.

Tall, showy and very early, appearing before hyacinth and tulip can divide the honors, a most distinguished resident of the garden border seems the crown imperial. From its strong root ascends a brave three-foot stem, crowned with the most brilliant green leaves of the garden, and soon beneath them there opens the flowery crown of showy, bell-shaped flowers, from which the plant takes its name.

So unique in appearance is this plant, that even if it were not handsome, it would be a boon for the sake of the variety it affords. The remarkably showy fritillaria family is very rich in flakes and markings of color, and also in nectar. F. imperialis is especially rich in the latter, and if a cluster of its flowers are shaken there will be a shower of honey-dew. The color of the flower-crown varies through many bright shades—red,



FREESIAS



scarlet, orange, yellow, etc., with curiously and quaintly checkered spots in many sorts, as in *F. meleagris*, the guinea-hen flower. To succeed well with fritillarias plant them four or five inches deep and about a foot apart, in rich soil, which should be well mulched in winter. They will hardly bloom the first year after planting, but when fairly established will increase in beauty and gaiety of bloom every year. Established clumps should be divided after four or five years if they grow very dense, choosing autumn for the work, and exposing the bulbs to sun and air as little as possible, for they do not keep well out of the ground. G.

*North Carolina.*

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#### BULBS FOR WINTER BLOOMING.

**I**N anticipation of the winter months, no better investment can be made than in a well-chosen collection of winter-blooming bulbs. In no line of floriculture can so much varied beauty and delightful fragrance be secured at such slight outlay. In buying bulbs, as with everything else, it is true economy to buy the best, so better avoid the bargain



FRITHILLARIA IMPERIALIS  
CROWN IMPERIAL

counter sales of cheap and inferior bulbs, and buy of a reliable dealer, for poor bulbs are dear at any price, yielding more often a harvest of disappointment than the coveted crop of lovely flowers. Order early, thus lightening the labor of the florist and securing the cream of his stock. Reserve the heaviest, plumpest bulbs for the house, and give them a rich, turfy loam, with the usual admixture of coarse sand to secure porosity, and add body to the compost.

Freesias are usually offered before the regular bulb catalogue appears, often through the medium of the floral magazines. These crave early planting, and should be potted during late August or early September to have them in bloom at Christmas time. For a succession, plant at intervals of three weeks on through October. The flowers will be much larger and richer if a little old, decayed manure be added to the compost above—so old that it looks like black earth. A level tablespoonful of sifted wood ashes added to a heaping quart of the admixture will keep it sweet and friable. Manure may be dispensed with if the soil be rich in decayed vegetable matter, as old rotted leaves or straw. The freesia fairly revels in a soil of this kind, and it pays to buy the larger sized bulbs. Allow six of them—eight small ones—to a five-inch pot, planting

them in a circle, and covering with an inch of soil. This depth of planting renders them self-supporting, if grown slowly and in a cool atmosphere. When all are planted, set the pots in warm water till the moisture begins to show at the surface. Remove, and set the pots outdoors in a shady place, secure from rain, and cover the soil with an inch of leaf rubbish or straw. Examine from time to time, watering them lightly, if they become dry, and as soon as the shoots begin to show, remove the mulch and accustom the plants gradually to full sunshine. Leave them outside until actual freezing threatens, then transfer to a sunny window in a fireless room. When well established, give warm water sufficient to saturate the soil every morning, pouring it into the saucer and removing the surplus. They are semi-aquatic in their requirements. With these, as with the entire winter-bulb family, the grandest results are attained by giving them an atmosphere as cold as possible without actual freezing, with plenty of sunshine, moisture, and fresh air. Do not hurry them. If freesias are planted by the dozen in boxes, setting them two or three inches apart each way, they will yield a perfect mass of bloom, and the fragrance is indescribable.

Roman hyacinths follow next, because of their delicious sweetness and early flowering. Buy these by the dozen, and you will have none too many. A good bulb of the Roman hyacinth produces several spikes of bloom, and when three or four are planted in a five or six-inch pot, or a dozen or two in a box or basket, they yield a mass of waxen beauty and delicate sweetness that captivates the beholder at sight. There are several delicate colors, but none so exquisitely beautiful as the snowy white. Potted in late September or early October, we may have them in bloom for Christmas. On through October and November, they may be potted at intervals for a succession, giving us their lovely, waxen bells for Easter. Provide good drainage, and in filling the pots, provide a hollow for each bulb, and place them with the crowns just above the surface. Press the earth firmly about them, but do not force or press the bulb down. Set the pots in a pan of tepid water until the moisture begins to show at the surface, then set them in the darkest corner of a cool, dark cellar for six weeks at least, and much longer if you want to. The absence of a cellar need not prevent one from growing bulbs; a dark closet will answer very well, and if it be on the cool side of the house so much the better. The first hyacinths I ever grew indoors took their long beauty sleep in a zinc-lined jelly closet. The flowers were perfect. I have never had finer, and that was a long time ago. Examine the bulbs occasionally, and do not permit them to become dry. The soil should be kept moist throughout, but not soaked. They may be brought up when the pot is well filled with roots, or they may be left until the buds begin to show. The main point is to avoid hurrying them. So, when brought up, place them in a strong light, but not sunshine, for one or two weeks, according to their development. One must use judgment. Then place in full sunlight in a cool room; give plenty of air and moisture, and they will grow strong and stocky, with flowers of greatest substance.

Dutch hyacinths require the same treatment, and if it is given them, the spikes will not need coaxing upward under the impetus of a paper cone. These embody a world of sweetness and a wondrous variety of shade in all the soft and tender colors, including, moreover, the most brilliant reds and deepest, richest blue and purple. For a modest collection, none have given me a wider range of color for the number of bulbs, nor lovelier trusses of magnificent bells than the following, culled from the many beautiful varieties: *La Grandesse*, *Voltaire*, *Czar Peter*, *Fleur d'Or*, *Jeschko*, *La Precieuse*, *Amy*, *Gigantea*, *Uncle Tom* and *Norma*, with *Robert Steiger* among the single. Beautiful double varieties are *Bloksberg*, *Prince of Saxe-Weimar*, *Grootvorst*, *Noble par Merite*, *La Tour d'Auvergne*, *Non Plus Ultra* and *Panorama*.

Tulips make a gorgeous addition to any collection. These must have a cool temperature, or the buds will blast. Give them a sandy soil and plant deep, covering with an inch of soil above the top of the bulb. Keep soil moist, but not soaked. Set away like hyacinths. Three or four may be planted in a pot, or several in a box, with fine effect. When first brought up, keep in strong light until the foliage turns green, then in full sunlight. The *Duc van Thols* are most excellent for indoor flowering, and embrace a lovely range of color. The *Tournesol*, with very large double flowers, make fine pot plants, and the *Parrot tulips*, with their gay, fantastic shapes and colorings, are strikingly beautiful.

*Narcissus* are of the easiest culture. They will flower in water, but the amateur had better rely upon soil for best results. Any good soil will do for narcissus. Plant deep, three in a five-inch pot, and treat throughout like tulips, except they need more water, and require deeper pots. Give moisture and fresh air freely after placing them in the sunlight. *Grand Primo White* and *Grand Primo Yellow* are fine; *Double Roman* is a sure bloomer; all are deliciously sweet and very beautiful,



but Paper White is exquisitely so. It is far more beautiful than the Chinese Sacred lily, more sweetly fragrant, and a better bloomer either in soil or water. The Sacred lily, by the way, blooms better in soil than than water, and the flowers are far more lasting.

Great Jonquil (Campernel), or, as it is sometimes called, Golden Sacred lily, treated like narcissus, will send up flower after flower, golden yellow and delicately sweet, the display lasting for weeks. Plant half a dozen in a five-inch pot.

Ornithogalum Arabicum is strikingly beautiful. A good bulb planted in a four-inch pot, and treated like narcissus, will repay one amply for all care bestowed, and requires only limited sunshine. Its leaves are thick and leathery, drooping gracefully, and it bears stalks of bloom two feet tall, loaded with a succession of large, pearl-white flowers, with jet black center, that last for weeks, filling the room with their spicy odor. It asks only cool quarters and plenty of sunshine.

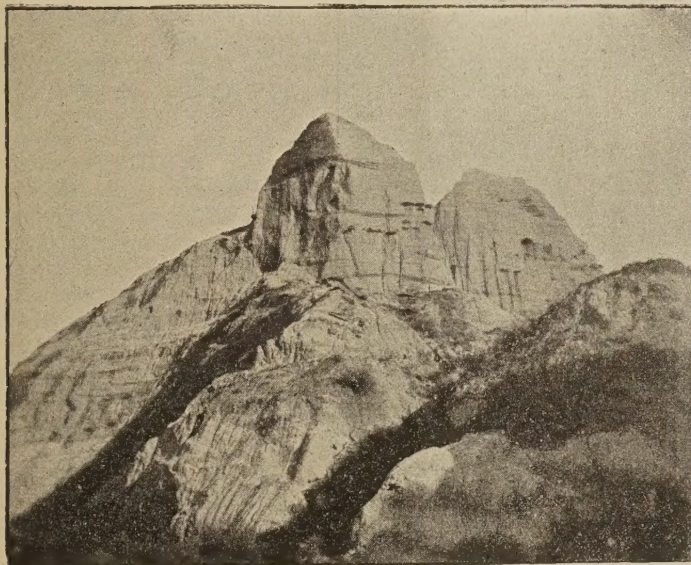
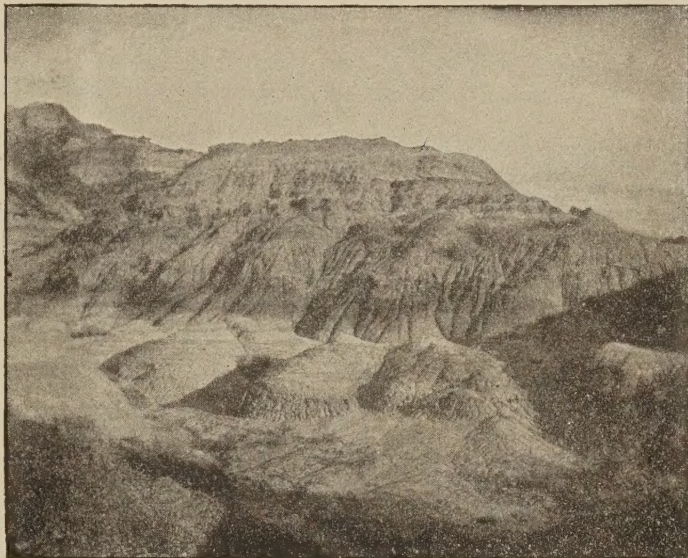
Plant a dozen *Triteleia uniflora* in a deep hanging basket, swing it low for a cool atmosphere, keep well watered, and you will have an abundance of flowers all winter—dainty, white, star-shaped flowers, azure-lined, and reminding you of a bit of woodland.

MRS. A. H. HAZLETT.

putting away in the dark, as do so many of the winter blooming bulbs. They will begin to grow in from three days to a week,—and then how they do grow, like weeds, veritably; the long, rank, lily-like leaves shoot out in all directions and it is but a little while until these fill the crock with their freshness and greenness. The buds come in a few weeks, sometimes sooner and sometimes not so soon, but from two to four weeks will show you plenty of buds and from four to six weeks will give you blossoms, sweet as a summer morning and dainty as a bouquet of orange blossoms, though not quite as waxen.

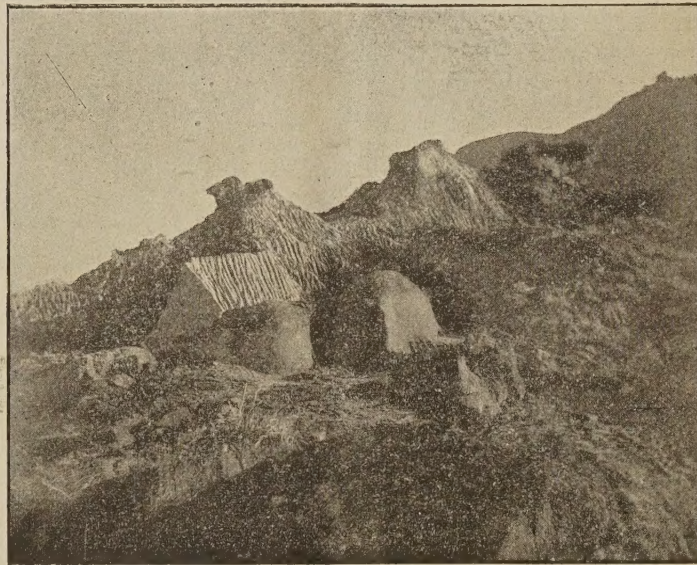
If you have not tried growing this lily, try it this fall. If the bulbs are covered with a dark brown skin, as they are apt to be, remove this and cut off all the old roots; they will start quicker and do better.

If you want to grow the bulbs in water, take a glass dish (if you have one you are willing to spare for this purpose), fill it partly full of pebbles or shells. I use shells, as I happen to have a good many from the Florida coast; put in pieces of charcoal to keep the water sweet. After partly filling with shells I take the bulbs and pack them closely with the shells,—they need firm packing on account of the strong roots of which I spoke. Fill the dish with water and set at once in a window



EAGLE BUTTE

IN THE BAD LANDS OF MONTANA  
THE PARK



THE TENT

#### CHINESE LILIES.

THERE is no bulb grown that is so sure to blossom as the Chinese lily. I have grown almost all sorts of bulbs for winter blooming, but all things considered I have never found any that is so certain of producing flowers as this lily. It is not large and glistening, like the Easter lily, but it has a beauty of its own that is attractive to the flower lover. I know of no flower easier for the farmer's wife to grow than this lily. It will brighten the commonest farm kitchen and make a bright spot in the lives of all who cluster about the living room fireside. The bulbs are not expensive. I usually flower a number of the bulbs together and grow them in earth instead of water, although I grow them both ways. To grow in earth I take a gallon milk crock,—such as used for setting milk; I take as many bulbs as I can crowd into this and leave any room at all for watering. Six or eight bulbs are enough, and if one did not have many, fewer would do. Allow a good bottom drainage of bits of crockery; I leave no holes in the bottom to drain the water off, as these lilies delight in soaking their toes in mud. Fill the crock above the drainage with good earth and set the bulbs on this, packing them about half below the soil with earth; pack firmly, as the strong roots push them out of the earth unless this point is looked after. Water copiously and set at once in the light; these bulbs do not need

where it is light. The bulbs will grow in little sunshine and in a cool room. I have not yet found a place where they would not grow,—they will grow where it is warm or where it is cool, by furnace heat or base burner, or in a room next one where there is a fire. They are not as hardy as the hyacinth in regard to cold, but will grow strong and thrifty in a room above freezing, although I do not think they blossom quite as soon, but are stronger when they do. Some of the bulbs will produce double flowers. There is also a yellow variety; the bulbs are smaller, but the flowers larger and not so many of them. According to my experience these do not blossom as quickly after being set as the white ones do, but they are both good and almost no trouble to grow them,—just give plenty of water, water, water.

ROSE SEELYE-MILLER.

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#### SCENES IN THE BAD LANDS OF MONTANA.

One of our correspondents, Mrs. H. L. Miller, of Glendive, Montana, sends some views of the Bad Lands. One of these is Eagle Butte. The writer says:

These Buttes are formed of an argillaceous soil, and are full of fossils, and veins of coal in different stages of formation. Immense rocks are found, which when broken are found to be composed of several varieties of shells and prehistoric fishes without fins or tails, embedded in bluish stone, that at one time was doubtless mud. Petrified wood is to be found everywhere, as are the broken bones of monsters of terrible size. The other two engravings show some of the fantastic shapes that this clay may be found in. The corrugations are caused by the action of the rain or snow.



### ASTERS AND THEIR CULTURE.

THE chrysanthemum supplements the aster with no thought of supplanting it, for both have taken perennial root in the hearts of gardeners. The form of their flowers is similar and of a type that we love to see repeated through thousands of variations.

The "aster disease" was at one time a great bug-bear to cultivators of this bright and handsome flower, but now enlightened methods of cultivation have taught us how to combat it successfully, and asters are on the increase everywhere.

The aster needs a rich soil for best development, and to many minds this means one of stiff, heavy clay, enriched with fresh fertilizers and perhaps dank or water-logged. I believe that any rich, well drained soil will grow fine asters, but sure am I that a light sandy loam is the best. In making our aster beds, if the soil does not seem rich enough we mix well in with the soil moderate quantities of fine two-year old fertilizer from cow stalls, our experience being that fertilizer from horse stables is too heating and rank for asters. We also sprinkle over and work in well with the soil of the beds a light shower of crushed unslaked lime; this last must be covered with soil immediately, or it loses the properties that make it useful as a preventive of disease.

We sow the seeds about an inch deep in the garden beds, about the first of April, and cover it with good potting soil. When large enough the seedlings are transplanted to the beds where they are to grow, setting them about a foot apart. Almost everyone who has tried this lime treatment says it is a great preventive of disease.

Asters, like chrysanthemums, need plenty of water while growing, but they will not endure it in such floods without injury. I have seen great beds of beautiful plants rot off at the surface of the ground during our prolonged rainy seasons. For this reason we usually raise the surface of our aster beds a little.

Under the skillful manipulation of hybridizers the aster is losing its old-time stiff form and becoming quite a debonair blossom. The Semples, the Branching, the Comets, Japanese Tassel asters, and others are graceful and charming deductions from the stately, formal flowers of our earlier asters. The two engravings show pretty clearly the "progress" of improvement in types of flowers. Asters sown indoors or started early in hotbeds do not make the most of their advantages; they bloom but little earlier and show flowers no finer than those on plants started in outdoor beds. Asters are strong, sturdy plants that like rich food, but despise coddling. Like tulips and hyacinths, the asters show broad blazes of rich color, and mixed packets of seed sometimes give harrowing results. It is better to purchase the colors separately and group or mingle them tastefully.

L. G.

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### THE OXALIS.

THE winter-blooming oxalis is not appreciated as it should be. I have grown it for a good many years, and like it more and more as the years go by, and as larger variety and better sorts are offered. One

reason why I like the oxalis is because it does not need putting away in the dark to root, and so comes into bloom almost as soon as the other winter-blooming bulbs are brought to the light. Last fall I potted some bulbs of the Buttercup oxalis; they showed no signs of sprouting, but in three days I could see green shoots just peeping above the ground, thus showing that this bulb germinates almost as readily as a dahlia seed or a pink. The Buttercup oxalis is a beautiful little flower; its foliage is a light, delicate green, and its blossoms of the purest yellow are borne in clusters, and the individual flowers will measure an inch across, at least. They are fragrant, too, with an odor faint, yet subtle, like that of the wild flowers in early spring time. There is a double yellow oxalis that is very pretty. White, pink, red and variegated flowers are shown amongst the oxalis blossoms, and so one may have quite a variety, even with this one species of bulb for winter blooming.

They come into flower soon, and keep blooming till very late in the spring, in fact until almost summer time; then the winter blooming sorts die down and remain dormant until fall again. They may be set away till that time or they may be kept in pots with other plants if it seem desirable, and when their resurrection time comes they will start up again and be ready for another winter's blooming. Most other winter blooming bulbs are of little value after once blossoming in pots, but the oxalis, like Tennyson's brook, "goes on forever."

ROSE SEELYE-MILLER.  
South Dakota.

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### A DUET.

TWO ACALYPHAS—I enjoy having more than one plant of a family. It is like having a variety of children. They are related but look and act differently. I knew nothing could be more gorgeous than *Acalypha triumphans*, with its waxy bright red leaves, which gleam like a ruby in the sun. The plant is so thrifty, willing and free from pests, that I knew *Sanderiana* could not be superior to it. But I got a *Sanderiana*,—yes, bless you—I got two. One I planted in a bed, and it grew like a weed, just exactly as coarse and ugly. The other was potted, and its leaves looked less vigorous,

but it put forth its flowers, which were about as large around as an ordinary pencil, and not more than two inches long. The color was a dirty red. Of course as the plant grows larger the "chenille" flowers may increase in size. I hope so, at least. It is certainly very curious. But triumphans "beats it all holler" as an admiring youngster critically pronounced.

TWO STROBILANTHES—The much advertised *S. Dyerianus* has a variegated leaf and enjoys a sunny place. However, I have found it far less satisfactory than *coleus*. It is hardier, of course, but it has been very slow of growth. One plant is in a south bed, and one in an east. Both have grown about so much, but make very little showing, and have not bloomed. However, I am not discouraged, but trust they will develop into handsome plants as they grow larger.

*Strobilanthes anisophyllus* is a neat, lanceolate leaf plant, covered thickly with its shining, narrow, bronze green leaves, and growing rapidly into a lovely bush. Set the plants out during summer with the "mums,"



CLUSTER OF  
EARLY ASTERS



and pot in the fall. They (I have two) cover themselves with tiny lavender flowers, along in mid-winter. I consider it a very satisfactory conservatory plant. Nothing attacks it and it always blooms. It will not bear chilling, however. That blasts the buds.

**TWO CALLAS**—This is the tale of two callas—one the Spotted, and one the Little Gem. Some time in mid-winter someone sent me a "lily" bulb. It was not named, so I knew not what it was. When spring came, I put it in the lily bed, and forgot all about it. When it put forth its spotted leaves, I knew it, but was amazed at its growth. It is as big around at the base as a wrist, and the leaves are enormous. It had one bloom, very waxy and white, which remained perfect a long time. I did not cut it, and it seeded, but produced no more bloom.

Little Gem was received and set in the same bed. It seemed woe-begone after its long trip, but after a while did nicely. I found this was the best treatment for it, to set out during the summer. When fall comes I shall pot it and see what luck I have with it.

**TWO BEAUTIES**—We cannot all afford stately (and costly) palms, nor graceful pines. We may not all have patience to wait for little palms to grow into large ones, but we can all have an *Aspidistra* or Silver Shield, and a *Phrynium*. Both grow rapidly, cost little, and are beauties.

Silver Shield put forth eight long leaves in a year. They are from eight to fourteen inches long, and beautifully formed. Some leaves are all green, some have a yellow stripe down the center, some have half a dozen stripes, and some have a leaf half yellow and half green. The plant revels in sunshine, where its color comes forth clearly.

The *Phrynium* came in the form of a bulb. I knew not which end was which, but I trusted to luck and a leaflet appeared after what seemed an endless interval. The leaves continued to come and displayed beautiful white markings on a green ground. I am perfectly satisfied with my two beauties.

**TWO VARIEGATED ABUTILONS**—Let me introduce you to Monsieur Savitzii and Madame Souvenir de Bonn, two charming friends in the floral world. Savitzii's green leaf is irregularly outlined with white, and de Bonn very regularly with cream. They are a showy pair, but Madame beats Monsieur in growth. Both were planted in a bed, as my pots had given out, and Madame simply eclipsed Monsieur in a race for height. I nicknamed them Monsieur and Madame for fun. They looked so like a little old couple, as they squatted in the bed. Madame grew so rapidly, she was soon a graceful, showy tree. I am hoping Monsieur will become ashamed of himself and sprint ahead some fine day and show his mate what he can do.

**TWO CALADIUMS**—The *esculentum*, or elephant's ear, is the large-leaved caladium. Of these I had three. One was planted in a south bed, where it got all the sun. One had a wooden tub on the porch, and one had a shaded east bed. I think all did equally well, perhaps the one in the south bed the best. The season was wet, and as these tropical beauties are water-loving they flourished finely. The leaves, as most persons know, are immense and very ornamental. The bulb in the tub half rotted. It was the largest thing I ever saw in the bulb line, except a *crinum*. But this fellow sent out a side shoot, as though rotting was the proper caper to cut up in front of my worried nose.

The other caladium is a fancy leaved one. I potted it. It has a small dark green leaf, with the clearest pink markings, making it a little beauty. It did not grow very large, but perhaps it would have done so in a bed. The bulbs, kept in a dry, warm place, during winter, can be used the next season. A row of the elephant's ear makes a fine display.

**TWO CLIMBING ROSES**—There are two east windows to our house. There is nothing extraordinary in that, but they have long been a source of bother to me, because I wanted them vine-covered, and the woodbine

and grapes which covered them grew too dense. It was impossible to see out of them at all. When the Ramblers became advertised, I was taken with the idea of supplanting the east window vines with these two lovely roses, Crimson and Yellow Ramblers.

Crimson was given a big load of manure at the bottom of the hole dug for it. But for some reason Yellow did not get nearly so much. You should have seen Crimson grow. It leaped ahead, and had a trellis to climb. Ten feet in a season was its maiden effort. But Yellow did not do nearly as well, all because it was denied as much manure. The new wood blooms, and it is well to trim away the old stalks each spring.\* These two climbers are delightful draperies for the east windows.

**TWO SATISFACTORY VINES**—In the Capitol grounds at Washington is an iron settee, with an iron-work canopy. A wistaria is planted at each end, and has climbed all over the canopy, while the lovely blue racemes droop down between the meshes in the most graceful manner imaginable. Some day I hope to have such a seat in my yard. But at present I have a very pretty and effective arrangement of the wistaria and the trumpet creeper at the windows, each side of the front door. The vines climb up a width of chicken fence wire to the balcony above.



JAPANESE TASSEL ASTER

Here they have been cut back until they make a natural top canopy for each window, and spread out over the balcony rail. Both are so hardy and showy, that they are eminently satisfactory. The wistaria blooms in May and June, and trumpet creeper in July and August.

**TWO ASPARAGUS**—The man who invented asparagus invented a good thing. It certainly is one of the most dainty ornamental plants we have. My two are *Asparagus Sprengeri* and *Asparagus plumosus*. The latter is particularly lovely in its feathery airiness, while a *Sprengeri* is very graceful in its drooping happiness. Both grow so rapidly and are so free of pests that they make no care at all.

Could a more lovely bouquet be imagined than a *Perle-des-Jardins* tea rose, four or five deep purple and gold pansies, against a spray of *plumosus*? *Plumosus* does not stand a cold draft in winter at all. I have seen a magnificent specimen of *Sprengeri* grow in a dull base-room window. It makes a graceful vase plant. The bulbous roots are extremely curious. I did not cover the bulbs completely, and gave them a rich, porous soil. In the conservatory, each one should have a separate bracket. Altogether they are eminently satisfactory. *Plumosus* is particularly lovely as a new growth starts, and it is kept clean. The green is extremely vivid.

GEORGINA G. SMITH.

\* No.—Ed.



## COMMENTS.

THE August MAGAZINE says the Oriental Poppy is difficult to transplant. I have never had the least difficulty with it. I dig it up, divide and reset just as I do any hardy perennial. The little bits of the roots left in the ground where a clump has been taken up will all grow and make a lot of small plants to be transplanted in their turn if the hole from which the old plant came is left open.

Messrs. Meehan & Sons say they have six cacti growing in open ground at Philadelphia, and I can go one better. Gray gives the range of four opuntias (prickly pears) as follows: *O. vulgaris*, Nantucket to South Carolina; *O. Rafinesquii*, Nantucket to Florida, and from Minnesota to Arkansas; *O. Missouriensis*, Wisconsin to Missouri and westward; and *O. fragilis*, Minnesota to Kansas and westward. This is a hardy looking list,—but I partly think that climate is of less moment than soil. The habitat of *O. vulgaris* is “sandy fields and dry rocks,” and the western opuntia and mamillaria, which grew and bloomed with



SPARMANNIA AFRICANA

me three years ago, cared nothing for cold. My water-tight subsoil gives a practical inundation as long as snow melts or rain falls, and this water in winter was what they couldn't stand. Had I been smart enough to set them in pots I might have them yet. My mother used to have an old prickly pear in a pot which was wintered in the cellar or out in the yard, just as it happened,—it was all one to the cactus, except the snow was apt to break off its branches. And the winters of Alleghany County, N. Y., and those of Philadelphia are different things.

Mary Foster Snider says, in the August number, the variegated day lily (*Funkia*) does not like the hot sun. She might well have added that the ordinary green sort, *F. alba*, does not either. In a yard near by, one stood in an angle of the house, exposed to the south-east. It grew and bloomed and was thought to be satisfactory, but a year or two ago it was moved to the north-east corner of the house, where a great lilac and other trees keep the sun off almost entirely. It stands on clay thrown from the cellar, is right in the grass,—though the shade keeps

the sod thin,—and has no manure or culture so far as appears. But it is an immense plant, two feet high or so, and six feet around; some leaf blades are ten inches long, all of the deepest, shiniest green. In its old place it had a well cultivated border; now it has shade and a little water from the eaves. A lady near here has her plant on the east side of the house exposed to the noonday sun, and the yellow leaves look as if cooked. “You ought to set it in the shade,” said I. “Yes,” she said, but there is no good shade.” Seeing these things I moved my own root last month; a heavy wall is now close by on the west, upon its top a broad branched white pine grows and other foliage keeps out the sun nearly all the time; I dug a hole in tough clay (the grading cut deeply here), set the plant, filled in round it with chip dirt and fine manure, poured on a pail of water and it was done. The days were dry and hot, but it never thought of wilting. It has already doubled in size, and its leaves have that dark shiny look, so much healthier than the sickly yellow of a sunned plant of this species. By the way, seeing the moles I thought it necessary to drive a new tunnel every day under and about the Japan ivy I set last fall. I moved this in July also, without wilting a leaf, and it is now growing nicely.

Do not be taken in by Miss Greenlee's praises of the moss pink (*Phlox subulata*, unless your soil is more or less sandy or gravelly. It does well on river loam down at the village; also on the cemetery hill at the same place,—a bench of gravel. But I have set it several times, only to see it dwindle and disappear. A neglected cemetery at Rogersville, N. Y., is, or was, covered with it,—acres of ground blazed with its rosy pink flowers. It had overrun plots, roadways and all,—the difference between what it thinks favorable and unfavorable soil. The wild plants are only found in sandy places, so far as I know.

Nor do I find such art and mystery attending the culture of the perennial phlox, *P. paniculata*, as Miss Greenlee speaks of. Perhaps I never saw any really good phlox; flowers somewhat larger than a quarter, and fifty or more on a stem, are as good as I can show,—some small flowered kinds may have hundreds on one stalk. The perennial phlox with me self-sows and thickens up and overruns everything. I should soon live in a mere wilderness of phlox should I stop hoeing up seedlings and stop tearing out great roots with pick and crowbar. The seedlings vary endlessly,—I picked over fifty kinds one day. A mulch of barnyard dirt or chip manure and a hoeing or two is about the entire process.

E. S. GILBERT.

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## SPARMANNIA AFRICANA.

This is a plant which was introduced into cultivation in Europe in 1790, and for a long time was highly prized as a handsome greenhouse shrub. Of late years it has not been seen except in botanical gardens, its place being usurped by more recent introductions. It is, however, an interesting plant, and when well grown very ornamental. This plant will attain a height of four or five feet, is well-clothed with foliage, the leaves having the shape of maple leaves. The foliage will bear well the hot dry air of living rooms, making the plant desirable for room decoration, as it is quite ornamental even when divested of flowers. The flowers are pure white, borne in large umbels of forty or fifty, or more. The stamens are yellow at the base and deep purplish red towards the summit. The anthers are irritable, and if touched will draw themselves away. The season of bloom is during the spring and early summer. Young plants bloom the first season and more freely than when older; for this reason only young plants are employed, propagation being made every season. The engravings here shown first appeared in *Möller's Deutsche Gärtner Zeitung* and later in *La Semaine Horticulture*, together with the method of culture, and from which we have taken the principal points, as follows: The culture of this plant is very simple, and the young plants bloom the first year. At the end of spring, after the flowering season, cuttings are taken from the plant. These root easily, and at the end of three weeks they are well rooted. The plants push vigorously in a mixture of two parts of old hatbed soil and one part leaf-mold. For a later potting use a stronger soil. When the young plants have made four or five leaves the terminal bud is pinched out to cause the plant to branch; but a later pinching back should not be attempted for the reason that the new growth would not ripen well, and for that reason would not set its flower buds well. The plants will winter well in a cool greenhouse, at a temperature of 45° to 50°. The plants require considerable water and should not be allowed to become dry.

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AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—This Society holds its bi-annual meeting this year at Philadelphia, Thursday and Friday, September 7th and 8th. Membership fee \$2.00. Fruit growers should attend.



## THE INDIA RUBBER PLANT.

**F**ICUS ELASTICA (the India rubber plant), is popular as a decorative plant for rooms and windows, as a good specimen from one to three feet high, with thick stem and dark rich green glossy leaves, presents an attractive appearance. With proper treatment they remain some time in this condition, and if grown in a cool shady room the plants succeed better than in a dry and heated atmosphere. One point which helps to maintain them healthy is frequent sponging the leaves so as to free them from dust. This is an easy matter with *Ficus elastica*. Both sides of the leaves should be sponged, using soapy water. The most likely insect to attack the leaves is that little black insidious pest known as thrips, which soon does damage.

The growth of *Ficus elastica* has the tendency to extend as one stem only, and very handsome plants are formed while they remain within a length of four feet. Young stock may, however, be topped at an early stage, and this will cause lateral growths to break, two or three of which can be allowed to extend for forming plants of a more bushy habit. This is chiefly a matter of taste, and adapted in cases where numbers of plants are grown.

Suitable sized plants may be grown in from five- to eight-inch pots. These are useful for room and window decoration, and for the side stages in the conservatory. Turfy loam, leaf soil, sand and charcoal, with the addition of a little peat, form an excellent compost. Plants that have been growing freely the last few months may now require a shift so that they will become established before winter and the pots filled with roots. Pot firmly, making the fresh material as substantial as the ball of roots. The pots ought to be clean and well drained.

Watering is not a difficult matter with these plants, but it is often mismanaged in the case of house plants. What is wanted is regular attention, not exactly at stated periods, but some time every day or every other day. Apply water in sufficient quantity to pass right through the ball of roots, and wait until more is needed. Just after potting one good watering will suffice for some time, but when the pots are becoming well occupied with roots water is needed oftener. A fairly light, but not a sunny position, suits the India rubber plant best, and if the house or window is hot, shade should be afforded during the hottest portion of the day. Sour soil caused through errors in watering is the chief cause of the lower leaves turning yellow before they ought to do. It is natural for the lower leaves to fall, but when they do so the leaf-stalk separates readily from the stem.

Another course which will throw the plants into bad health is allowing them to become very dry when the pots are full of roots. If temporarily this should occur, the best course to rectify it is to plunge the plant into lukewarm water in order to moisten the soil and roots completely. When well-established and growing freely cool treatment is the best, but in spring, after repotting, or when propagating, heat and moisture are essential for encouraging new growth.—*E. D. S. in Journal of Horticulture.*

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## NOTES.

**L**AST spring I set the crimson spiræa, Antony Waterer. It was growing when it came, starting a great many stems from one root, and it kept right on without check, a very easy plant to manage, it seems to me. We have had a severe drouth here this season, so I put a mulch of fine chip dirt around its roots. The thick-growing leaves are an inch or so long, sharp-toothed and sharp-pointed, rather dark, but somewhat dull in color. The catalogue says it is twelve inches high. Mine is already fourteen, and will no doubt be more. It soon began to bud and it has been covered with bloom for a long time. The flowers are small, but their numbers are great, all looking straight upward. They are arranged in flat clusters (cymes), like elder or bush cranberry flowers; the tiny buds and the stems on which they grow are a dull purple. They are about like pin-heads when they begin to open. Nothing can be redder than the first glimpse of the petals through the purple calyx and each bud seems to contain a spark of fire. The open flowers are, perhaps, paler and the sun fades them somewhat in a few days. My plant is in open ground. I presume as a pot plant, in a shady place, the color would endure better.

When the main cymes have been in bloom a while, secondary clusters coming from an inch or two lower, push up beside them and flower; after these are done a new crop of branches comes out from the roots or anywhere, and the flowering goes right on. The above was written six weeks or more ago, and my crimson spiræa has endured a fiery ordeal of drouth since then. It has had some flowers all through and there are plenty of buds, but it has ceased to grow and bloom. With rain enough, or as a pot plant, it would no doubt be a continuous bloomer. I see other catalogues give its height as three feet. It is a neat and pretty plant worthy of the widest culture, but you are not to expect the grandeur

of the yucca or auratum lily, while a good bed of *Petunia hybrida* near by will make it all invisible. Its style of beauty is altogether different from any of these.

My *Rudbeckia Golden Glow* had forty stems which grew eight feet high (its second year with me). I can only conjecture what it would have been had there been sufficient rain, for day after day its leaves hung limp and wilted at noon. Its lower leaves fell off and a number of its stems died, for we have had an awful drouth—only once has the ground been wet to amount to anything since the snow melted, and this was in June. Little sprinkles, wetting half an inch or so down, are all we have had since then. I have watered it some, but watering now and then is a poor substitute for rain; it wilted the next day just the same, but it budded and bloomed, making a great show for a while; its great head looking more like a tree top than a herb. I tied a string round its stems five feet from the ground, thinking it would be support enough, and it was for a time. But one morning with the hills dissolving in haze a gentle purring rain began—only enough to lay the dust as it turned out—but we had great hopes as it came pattering down. The water gathered upon the flowers of the *Golden Glow*, and soon the great mass fell



SPARMANNIA AFRICANA  
FLOWERING BRANCH

to the ground, breaking most of the stems. A half dozen bent instead of breaking, and these I saved, tying them to a stout stake. Its glory is over for this year. How to give good support without too great a display of scaffolding is what I am now trying to invent for use for next year. If any of you can advise me, I hope you will do so. The drouth may have made the stems weak, but the weight of the wet flowers is enormous, nothing much short of a fence post is going to bear them.

Most shrubs complete their annual growth pretty early, but the *Tamarix Africana*, set last spring, is now (August 14th), still growing, four feet four inches high to-day. I have seen high-toned evergreens, junipers, or something which had a good deal the same look, but it is really like nothing else that I ever saw. The main stems are dark brown, and the abundant feathery sprays are almost as finely cut as asparagus foliage (garden asparagus, I mean) though so different in form and tint. It is unique and wholly delightful for its foliage alone, and it is said to cover itself with pink flowers when old enough. A clump eight feet high, and they say it grows to that size, would surely be a thing of beauty.

E. S. G.

New York.



# VICKS ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY... MAGAZINE

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CHARLES W. SEELYE, Editor.

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Formerly conductor of *Popular Gardening*

Publishers are invited to use any articles contained in this number, if proper credit is given.

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All contributions, subscriptions and orders for advertising should be sent to VICK PUBLISHING CO., ROCHESTER, N. Y.

## Announcement.

This September number is the last issue of VICKS MAGAZINE in this shape and size. The October and following issues will be regular magazine size, about 7x10 inches, with an elegant colored plate each month. Professor Bailey of Cornell University, Professor Dodge of the University of Rochester, and other prominent men will contribute articles during the year. Eminent writers from foreign countries will tell of the flora of distant lands and the new possessions of the United States. The Young People's department of plant and insect life will interest and delight old as well as young.

The subscription price for those who may send in their subscription during this month only is 25 cents for the year, which does not cover the cost. Beginning with October, the price will be 50 cents per year.

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## Book Notes.

HOW TO PLAN THE HOME GROUNDS. By S. Parsons, Jr. With illustrations. 250 pages. Doubleday & McClure Co., publishers, New York City. Price \$1.00.

Mr. Parsons is so well known as a landscape gardener that the announcement of a volume from his pen will be sufficient to make it welcome to numerous readers throughout the country. It would be a pleasure to quote many things found in these pages, but the keynote of the book will be sounded by giving an extract from the preface, as follows:

The purpose of this book is to set forth briefly some simple, basic principles concerning the processes whereby home grounds can be made beautiful. From the beginning it will follow the various stages through which may be gradually and naturally developed the sensible, which is always the pleasing and attractive dwelling place; for everything which is done according to sound rational principles and common sense is bound to be agreeable and beautiful. In as short a fashion and as clearly as lies in the author's power, it will seek to set down the few points which are to be kept always in mind to properly work out and accomplish the permanently satisfactory results. To make these points tangible, by giving with the reason the example which makes that reason evident, the author invariably reverts to the general principles that should never be lost sight of in the selection and arrangement of the territory intended for occupation. These principles apply invariably to the small as well as the larger places. The statement cannot be made too emphatically at the very outset, that it is always just as simple and just as difficult to lay out a small yard 25x100 feet as a gentleman's great country place of many acres. There may be more details in the large place, but the principles are the same in both, and in the village lot the dainty finish and the perfect proportion, where all things are so evident, may be more difficult to accomplish than the more massive and less emphasized effects of the regular country place.

The book is well and appropriately illustrated; the instructions are conveyed in a clear and forceful manner, and one who wishes to understand the subject of the treatment and ornamentation of the home grounds cannot fail to find in this treatise the general principles that govern such operations, with specific details for their application. The latter part of the book is occupied with a brief consideration of Parks, Cemeteries and Railroad Stations. Mr. Parsons' intimate knowledge of trees and plants, gained by years of association with them, makes his notes in regard thereto particularly interesting and valuable, but in regard to one plant, the Japanese holly, he has gone somewhat astray. He mentions it as a plant adapted to general lawn planting throughout the country, claiming that its beauty and hardiness eminently fit it for the purpose. The fact appears to be that it can be used only in the milder portions of the country. An illustration and description of this plant is given elsewhere in this number where, also, Mr. Parsons' reference to it is more fully noticed.

Besides the notes on trees and plants, alphabetic lists of trees, shrubs and plants are given for special purposes, such as "Trees for General Use

on Home Grounds;" "Trees for Summer Effect; for Autumn Effect; for Summer and Winter Effect." "Shrubs Suitable for Spring Effect; for Summer Effect; for Autumn Effect; for Summer and Winter Effect." "Climbers Suitable for Summer Effect; for Spring Effect." "Herbaceous Plants and Annuals Suitable for Spring Effect and Suitable for Summer Effect." These lists are exceedingly valuable, enabling one to make selections with nice discriminations for particular purposes. Altogether, this volume from Mr. Parsons is a valuable contribution to American gardening literature.

LANDSCAPE GARDENING AS APPLIED TO HOME DECORATION. By Samuel T. Maynard, Professor of Botany and Horticulture at the Massachusetts Agricultural College. John Wiley & Sons, publishers, New York City. Price \$1.50.

The general scope of this manual of 350 pages is very well indicated by its title. It is intended to be helpful to the owners of village and country places, giving careful and explicit directions in regard to the proper laying out and ornamentation of new places of small or larger sizes, or the improvement of village lots or the grounds of old country places. Mr. Maynard's style is very clear and simple and his directions can easily be followed. A great number of subjects are carefully specified and treated, such as the essential points in the location of a house, treatment and arrangement of grounds, grading, the making of roads and walks, grass seeding, planting of trees and shrubs, preparation of flower beds, selection of plants, the making of fences or the removal of them when necessary, planting of hedges and their care. There is also an excellent chapter on "Country Roads and Roadside Improvements." Also a short chapter on "Parks, Public Squares, School Yards, etc.," in which a few pages are devoted to "Cemetery Decoration" and "Renovating old Cemeteries." The treatment of all these subjects by the author is excellent. There are also chapters giving descriptions of various kinds of trees, ornamental shrubs, herbaceous plants, bedding plants, climbers, etc.

Chapters on insects and fungi, and on the home fruit garden, with which the volume closes, seem a little outside the main purpose of the book, and yet they render it more useful to the ordinary owner of a village residence or a country place.

The descriptions and notes of trees, shrubs and plants are very good and appropriate, but we are sorry, to be obliged to, say that the pages devoted to these subjects appear greatly disfigured by incorrect orthography of botanical names, for which apparently there is no excuse, and the instances are so numerous that even that charity which "covers a multitude of faults" is not able to spread her mantle wide enough to exclude them from view; the same portion of the work is disfigured by numerous old, in many cases nearly worn-out, and inartistic engravings which have been brought together from various sources. These engravings are altogether unworthy of a place in the book, which in its general mechanical execution is a credit to the publishers.

LANDSCAPE GARDENING. By F. A. Waugh, Professor of Horticulture, University of Vermont and State Agricultural College. Illustrated. Published by the Orange Judd Company, New York City. Price 50 cents.

Within the compass of 150 pages, Professor Waugh gives the reader of his little volume the essential principles of landscape art. By means of a style of writing conspicuous for clearness and brevity, the writer covers satisfactorily and happily a subject which most writers would elaborate to many times the present treatise. The engravings employed are artistic and appropriate. The author says:

Landscape gardening is eminently a fine art. The enumeration of painting, sculpture and architecture as the fine arts is seriously deficient, and yet it has a wide currency. That is a fine art which attempts to create organized beauty—to unite several dissimilar parts in one harmonic whole. In this respect landscape art stands on a level with the other fine arts. In some other respects it even surpasses them. \* \* \* All persons ought to endeavor to understand the methods and aims of landscape art, as they endeavor to master the alphabet of literature. Good taste in gardening will yield its possessor as much pleasure as good taste in architecture, literature or music. And just as one may cultivate good taste in literature without designing to become a *litterateur*, so one may properly educate his taste for landscape gardening with no expectation of becoming a landscape gardener.

This volume is recommended without reserve as a brief but very complete introduction to the subject of landscape gardening as now understood by the ablest designers in this art.

GINSENG, ITS CULTIVATION, HARVESTING, MARKETING AND MARKET VALUE with a short account of its history and botany. By Maurice G. Kains. 12mo. 64 pages. Orange Judd Co., New York City. Price 25 cents.

As its name indicates, this book is a complete working treatise for the grower of ginseng—that new crop which is attracting such general attention among farmers and gardeners. It discusses in a practical way how to begin with either seed or roots, soil, climate and location, preparation, planting and maintenance of the beds, artificial propagation, manures, enemies, selection for market and for improvement, preparation for sale and the profits that may be expected.



## Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, and to publish the experiences of our readers.

EDITORS.

### Gladiolus in Winter.

Will gladiolus bloom in winter if bulbs be planted in July or August?

S. B.

Gladiolus bulbs kept over, out of the ground, until July or August, would be very much weakened, and it is doubtful if they could be depended upon for pot culture in winter. It would be better to wait for new bulbs and plant in September or October.

++

### Nymphæa in Winter.

I have a beautiful *Nymphæa odorata* growing in a tub; it has bloomed since the latter part of June, to the delight of all who have seen it. I am very much puzzled to know whether it is hardy in this climate or not. If so, I would like to know what care it requires during the winter months.

H. S. M.

Fontenelle, Nebr.

The nymphæa would undoubtedly live through the winter in a pond or large body of water, but it may be doubted if it would in a tub. The better way would be to take the tub into a cellar for the winter.

++

### Ornithogalum.—Hyacinth.

1—Will the *Ornithogalum Arabicum* live in the ground over winter, and what time of the year should they be planted?

2—When should seeds of the hyacinth be planted?

W. M. H.

Little Falls, N. Y.

1—In this climate *Ornithogalum Arabicum* is not hardy. For pot culture in the house the bulbs can be potted in October. For garden culture plant them early in the spring.

2—Hyacinths are not raised from seeds, except by professional growers in raising new varieties. Plant the bulbs any time during the fall.

++

### Plant to name.—Protecting Pansies.

1—Enclosed are the leaf and flower of a vine of which I would like to know the name. The roots live in the ground through the winter, and where there is one root one year there will be a dozen the next. The flower is a pale pink.

2—Please tell me how to protect pansies through the winter.

E. L.

Onley, Okla.

1—The plant is *Convolvulus sepium* or Great Bindweed, and which also bears the following names in different localities: Bellbind, Woodbind, Lily-bind, Lady's Night Cap and Hedge Lily.

2—Spread some dry leaves on the ground between the plants.

++

### Passiflora cœrulea in Winter.

Please tell me how to keep *Passiflora cœrulea* over winter. I have no hot-house.

W. K.

Central Illinois.

If the plant is growing in the open ground it can be carefully lifted with soil attached and be placed in a box, and the box be kept in the cellar over winter. If the plant is growing in a pot or box it will only be necessary to remove it to the cellar. The soil should occasionally during the winter be given some water, so that it will not become quite dry, but it must not be kept wet.

++

### Trumpet Creeper.

Please tell me how to raise trumpet creeper from seed. Mine failed to grow.

Tingley, Iowa.

Mrs. J. J. M.

Be sure that you have fresh seeds, then sow them in light, sandy soil, in pots. If this is done in the greenhouse, or if the pots can be placed in a hotbed that is nearly spent, but which retains a gentle heat, the seeds will germinate readily. Or, the seeds can be gathered in autumn and be sown on a well drained border in the garden, covering them from a quarter to a half inch in depth. Place some leaves over the ground for the winter, removing as soon as frosts are passed in spring, and the plants will appear promptly in due time.

++

### House Plants, how shall I manage them?

I have had glorious luck this year with all my plants,—shall have 200 pots of house plants this fall. I wonder if anyone can tell me how to manage them? Our rooms are twelve feet high, heated by a coal stove; the bay is 6x11 feet, off a parlor 20x26 feet, and when a snap of 28° below zero comes, it's "good bye" plants,—I lost a hundred choice plants that way one year. Is there any way I can build out a conservatory over the balcony? How could I heat it?

G. G. S.

A window conservatory opening into a heated room ought to be kept at a proper temperature in ordinary weather from the heat of the adjoining room passing through the open doorway. In the severest weather a coal-oil stove in the window should be sufficient to maintain a proper heat.

### Culture of Lilies.—Corn Smut.

1—Will you kindly give some cultural directions for lilies in general, and *Lilium candidum* in particular? I do not find sufficient information in the catalogues.

2—Please tell me whether one can destroy corn smut by burying in a compost heap with lime and ashes. One does not want to throw it on the ground, and I am puzzled to know how to dispose of it.

L. J. E.

Griggsville, Ill.

1—The subject of lily culture was so fully discussed in our issue of December last, page 22, that we can do no better than to refer our correspondent to that source of information.

2—With plenty of lime it is possible the smut might be destroyed, and yet it is also possible that some of the spores might escape with that treatment. The better way is to destroy the smut with fire.

++

### Aucuba Japonica.

Will you kindly state if the *Aucuba Japonica* is a hardy plant, and if I can leave it in the garden all winter without protection.

M. M.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

*Aucuba Japonica* is not sufficiently hardy to bear the winter in the open ground, at Brooklyn. At Washington, D. C., and southward, in sheltered places it will stand out. If the writer will take the risk, and can get some evergreen boughs to stand around the plant, and then cover all with a large box—an old dry goods box—it is possible that it might be saved. The branches could be pressed up together, but not too closely, and tied, to make it more compact in form, and then surround and cover with the evergreen boughs and lastly cover with the box.

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### A Native Plant.

A friend desires me to enquire about a plant brought from Dakota last summer, called there the "Gumbo lily." It has wintered here outdoors and bloomed abundantly,—is now full of buds, as the flowers have been pinched off continually; is it best to continue doing so? They come out at first white, then turn to pink and soon fade. The habit is something like the roots of pinks,—trailing on the ground. I enclose blossom and leaf. Perhaps "gumbo" refers to the soil of Dakota. Any information about its culture elsewhere would be acceptable. I have wondered if it is anything of the "Christmas rose" variety. It has been a hard winter here for bulbs,—all of our outdoor hyacinths and candidum lilies have gone, but the plant which I enquire about is not a bulb and can hardly be properly called a lily.

Miss H. S.

Stroughton, Wis.

The plant is one of the Evening Primrose family, apparently *Oenothera albicaulis*.

++

### Tulips.—Roses.

2—Should tulips and roses remain in the ground year after year without being removed? If not, how often should they be taken up, at what time of the year, and when should they be replanted?

2—What is the best time to transplant roses to insure success?

Belle Isle, N. Y.

Mrs. J. M. G.

1—Tulip bulbs may be left in the ground over summer, after blooming, and often they are allowed to remain several years. However, good cultivators find it to be much better to take them up, after the foliage has faded and died, and store them in an airy, shady place, such as a cool, dry room, where they may be kept on a shelf. By the first of September they may again be planted.

2—Dormant plants of roses may be set either in the fall or spring, but plants growing in pots should be planted only in spring. October is the best month for fall planting, and the latter part of April or first half of May the most desirable for spring planting.

++

### Failure with Celery.

Please give me a few words of instruction in regard to the cultivation of celery. Last year I planted some and it did very well until I placed boards beside it to blanch it; after that it became soft and stringy and seemed to lose all its substance. Kindly tell me what was the matter.

F. T. C.

Somerville, Mass.

Without knowing all the facts in the case it cannot be said positively what caused the celery to be affected as described. It is not probable that the trouble was due to the use of the boards, but was merely concurrent with their use, and might have been the same if they had not been employed. It looks as if the plants had lacked water. Of course, we have no knowledge in relation to this point. Perhaps when the boards were placed down the cultivation of the plants was stopped, and if so, and the season was dry, then there would be more rapid evaporation of the soil water, thus diminishing the supply to the plants. Mr. Jenkins, who writes for these columns and who practices the board method of blanching, tells us that when he places the boards along the rows, he mulches between them with manure or other suitable material and then applies water to the mulch by means of hose. Perhaps some of our readers, who may have had a similar experience, will notice this inquiry and be able to give some light in regard to it.





### GROWING LILIES.

**A**N IMPRESSION prevails that a bed of regal lilies can be the possession of only a favored few, who have wealth or other exceptional advantages less clearly specified. This notion is a mistaken one. There is no reason why every thrifty farm garden, and every suburban grass plot should not have its superb clump of lilies. The varieties are numerous and varied enough to suit every taste, and to preclude the probability of monotony, anyone, with intelligent care, can grow them, and they are not expensive, with the exception of a few recent introductions; while they increase in number, size and value, year by year, after they became well-established. They should be set where they are desired to remain as they do not take kindly to removal, liking to spread and luxuriate year after year in the same spot, as family treasure, and a long-loved ornament of home.

Nothing in the floral world can much surpass a well-grown clump of *Lilium auratum*, or of its near relative *Auratum rubrum vittatum*. A well-grown *Auratum* lily will throw up strong stalks six feet high, crowned with a dozen or more splendid, scented blooms each. Words cannot convey a notion of the rich Oriental magnificence of a group of such lilies; they must be seen to be fully appreciated.

Lilies should be planted by themselves; they do not assort well with any other plants. A background of evergreens best serves to bring out their distinctive features.

In stately splendor and exquisite coloring no flower can surpass the varieties *Melpomene* and *Opal*; none are fuller of glowing life and color than the little Siberian lily, *L. tenuifolium*; none display more barbaric magnificence than the single and double Tiger lilies. What blossom can be more suggestive of utmost purity than the Madonna lily, *L. candidum*. *L. Brownii*, a trumpet-shaped lily, shows an almost startling combination of colorings, being chocolate purple on the outside, and cream-white within.

The lily's season of bloom is a prolonged one, some coming into bloom earlier, and some later, so that by a judicious selection it is possible to have them for weeks. Many varieties are deliciously scented. Their fragrance would be rather heavy and cloying for the confined air of the house, but in the garden they seem to breathe "airs of Paradise." Why do not more gardens display this incomparable ornament? Doubtless many think the bulbs expensive; others consider them hard to succeed with, while many intend to have them, but put off getting them from

year to year. But now is the best season of the year to set lily bulbs. It is true the bulbs may be set out in spring, but bulbs that are left out of the ground over winter, as those must be which are offered for spring planting, are apt to be wanting in vitality and thus a source of disappointment to the purchaser, who either loses them altogether, or finds that they give but partial satisfaction. The time to order bulbs is as soon as the fall catalogues are issued. The bulbs will not be ready to send out at that time, except the *Candidum* lily, which is usually ready in August, but an early order will secure the bulbs at the proper season for the lilies to make roots and become established in their new quarters before the ground freezes. Then, in the spring, they will be all ready to grow—and bloom.

Have the ground prepared for the bulbs when they arrive. A deep, rich, sandy loam best suits the lily, but it will grow in almost any soil, provided perfect drainage can be secured. If the ground is not naturally such that water will readily drain away from it, then some tile or a stone drain can be made to take away the underground water. Plant the bulbs eight or nine inches deep. Many fail in this particular, setting the bulbs so near the surface that the frosts of winter almost throw them out of the soil. The lily throws out roots from the stalk above the bulb, and these serve the double purpose of supplying nutriment to the plant and of bracing and sustaining in position the heavy weight of the blossoms.

The lily does well in a somewhat shaded situation, and is thus well adapted for planting amid shrubbery. But lilies should never be set near trees, as the latter take the nourishment from the soil to the detriment of the plants. The soil for lilies should be made rich with old, well-decayed manure thoroughly incorporated with the soil; but fresh dressing must never be used, nor must any come in contact with the bulbs. They should be set on and surrounded by a layer of pure sand. When the ground freezes in the fall, apply a covering of stable litter or leaves, which may be forked in, in the spring, thus supplying enrichment to the soil. In this process, and in driving stakes, if such be employed for support, care should be used that the bulbs may not be injured. One wounded scale may induce the destruction of the whole bulb. There is no need of haste in removing the covering in the spring, as the bulbs do not start very early. The lily has few or no insect enemies, and in this respect is the superior of the rose.

MRS. W. A. CUTTING.

Massachusetts.

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### CONSERVING MOISTURE IN THE GARDEN.

**I**N July and August, when the sun evaporates moisture from the garden very rapidly, how to conserve the moisture is a subject in which many people are interested. The plan of conserving moisture by an earth mulch made by frequent cultivation, may be the best one when growing farm crops, but for the gardener who practices an intensive system, and who plants so closely that large quantities of water are required, the moisture which can be conserved by an earth mulch is not sufficient for the needs of the plants. During a drouth of two weeks in August, I have had plants wilt to the ground, although an earth mulch was kept around them. I suppose everyone who has cultivated the soil has noticed the difference in soil as to absorbing and retaining moisture—how gravelly and sandy soils rapidly lose their moisture after rain, when exposed to hot sunshine, and that loamy soils full of humus retain their moisture for a longer time. Water soon percolates through a gravel bed, but a well drained loam full of humus absorbs and retains water like a sponge, and under the right treatment conserves a constant supply of moisture for the growing plant. Water is the vehicle that makes soluble and conveys the plant food in the soil through the structure of the plant; hence the plant cannot make a large growth without an adequate supply of water. Few people realize the large quantities of water needed in hot, dry weather to supply the loss from evaporation and transpiration of plants. An ordinary plant leaf contains 10,000 pores to the square inch. Through these pores the plant is constantly transpiring in the hot days when the sun shines, and in a closely planted field the water pumped up from the soil through the roots by this process is two to four pints of water per square foot in twenty-four hours, or from fifty to 100 tons per acre. This is in addition to the water which the soil loses by evaporation and percolation; hence we see the importance of conserving all the moisture the soil gets from its natural sources, and supplementing it by irrigation when circumstances permit. Even in the very best soils, the gardener who plants closely, must late in the summer when the plants are large, to obtain the best results, use means of conserving the moisture, or providing more than the soil gets from its natural sources.

From my experience with irrigation on my farm, I have learned how to economize in the use of water by mulching or shading the surface of the ground. I am now irrigating a field of celery planted in rows with



alternate spaces between them of twelve and eighteen inches apart. The wide space is mulched with coarse manure and the plants are large enough to shade the narrow spaces. Irrigating this field once a week keeps the ground sufficiently moist, while another, with the surface exposed to evaporation, needs irrigating every day. In a word, the lessons learned are: Fill the soil with humus to enable it to retain all the moisture possible, give frequent cultivation during the early part of the summer, then when practicable mulch the surface not shaded by the plants.

I hardly think we appreciate the value of cover crops, which when plowed under fill the soil with humus. When the early garden crops, such as peas, corn, and potatoes have been removed, if a late crop does not follow this year, some catch crop should be used to cover the ground. Where it will survive the winter, sow crimson clover and it will save a part of your fertilizer bill the next year. On rich garden soil, when the weather is favorable it makes a good growth. Crimson clover, cow peas, or rye, when plowed under, fill the soil with the humus that helps to retain the moisture. Do not leave the ground without seeding to some catch crop when a crop has been removed. Nature's plan is to keep the ground covered, and unless you cover it with some useful crop she will cover it with weeds. The difference in soils is shown in times of drouth; the soil on some parts of my garden has been so filled with humus by plowing under heavy crops and heavy dressings of stable manure that it conserves so much moisture that the plants do not stop growing during an ordinary drouth, while on other parts where the soil is deficient in humus they cease to grow.

W. H. JENKINS.

Delaware County, N. Y.

\* \*

#### THE JAPANESE HOLLY.

The Japanese holly, *Ilex crenata*, is an interesting plant for those who can raise it. The illustration here given has been prepared from a photograph of a plant sent to us by Mr. Jacob W. Manning, of Reading, Mass. The plant, it appears, is a low-growing evergreen shrub. The engraving shows the specimen subject at two-thirds of its actual size. The largest leaves are not more than a half inch in length and about a quarter of an inch in width; they are thick and with a hard surface, like the American or English holly in this respect; the edge of the leaf may have from two to six very small, sharp teeth. In reading Mr. Parsons' new book "How to Plant the Home Grounds," our attention was particularly called to this plant by the author, as he mentions it with high praise. Wishing to learn more about it, and finding it mentioned in Mr. Manning's catalogue, we wrote to him concerning it. The following extracts from Mr. Parson's book and the letter of Mr. Manning will give our readers a fair understanding in regard to this plant, which, unfortunately, appears not to be adapted to the Eastern and Northern States, but which may prove of value in the middle and southern portion of the country.

Mr. Parsons, page 71 of the volume mentioned, refers to the use of a hedge of *Arbor vitæ* or privet on the borders of a terrace, saying "But in a year or two, perhaps, along would come a peculiar spring, cold and hot by turns, that would destroy a portion of the hedge," etc.

But the trouble with such workmen is they do not know the material that lies at their hand. If they did, they would turn to the *Ilex crenata*, a Japanese holly of such hardness and elegance and symmetry of form and richness of grace of leafage, that the only wonder is that any terrace in America is left unadorned by its presence. Pruning it stands well, provided we allow it to be in need of pruning with its perfect and yet graceful and light symmetry; and again it may be repeated, as supremely important, it is hardy in America, for what other evergreen shrub is actually hardy in America, without it be the American holly, a beautiful but somewhat straggling plant, which is especially slow in growth and difficult to transplant as compared with the Japanese holly, *Ilex crenata*.

Again in another portion of the same volume the author says:

But, fortunately, we are able to turn to our other holly, *Ilex crenata*, and say that here is a shrub that is as easily transplanted, as hardy and rapid-growing (at least a foot a year when once established) as some of the best deciduous shrubs,—*Berberis Thunbergii*, for instance; and then the shining, light green leaves, like those of box trees, how beautifully they are disposed in picturesque, close-set masses, relieved from any suggestion of stiffness by the young growth that spreads like a halo around the foliage. Such plants as these hollies, as distinguished from deciduous shrubs, are unsuited for grouping with other plants, being really too precious to exhibit otherwise than in masses by themselves.

These quotations show Mr. Parsons' estimate of the Japanese holly and his understanding in regard to its hardness.

In reply to our letter seeking information about the plant, Mr. Manning wrote as follows:

Your letter of July 10th is at hand and contents noted. We have had the *Ilex crenata* in our grounds for about five years, although we have never had a very large supply until about two years ago, when we had quite a stock that we had raised ourselves, plants getting about one foot high. These we have disposed

of with the exception of about a dozen or fifteen plants. We imported these plants about five years ago from England. These plants are extra fine specimens, standing about three feet high and eighteen inches to two feet in diameter.

For the first winter we housed them, as we were a little bit skeptical as to their hardihood. The next winter we left them out in a very sheltered situation on the south side of a hedge. The winter was not a very severe one, but the plants were killed to the ground. In the spring we cut them off and they made a growth of probably four feet six inches during the summer. At the present time I do not think that we have any plants in stock that would be fit to take a photograph of. Since the winter they were killed, we have been very careful every fall to house them, and of course in moving them as we have, they have not had the chance of getting much growth. We have plants about six inches in height in four-inch pots, a specimen of which we will send you.

According to some of the English writers the *Ilex* is an exceedingly fine hedge plant, although of slow growth, taking the hedge probably eight to ten years to get about three to four feet high, being planted from seed. If the hedge is left, and not disturbed, it will live to a good old age, as the old plants, as a general thing, do not like to be moved. I do not think that I have seen any other plants than our own in any other nursery in Massachusetts, although I am not certain whether or no they have it in the New York nurseries. I think its use for hedge purposes would be scarce, as it would be very costly, it being very much after the style of the rhododendron as far as the cost is concerned,



ILEX CRENATA  
JAPANESE HOLLY

and the prospect of supply would be very small, that is, at present. I think there would be more chance of its being used as a single plant than for hedge purposes, on account of its scarce supply and extra cost. The plant in itself is very pretty. The leaves are very small, not over half an inch in length and about a quarter of an inch in width, and like all the rest of the hollies, bearing very bright crimson fruit, although we have never had any fruit on our plants.

The plants can be propagated either from seed or by grafting, although I think we raised ours from seed. It generally takes seed about two years to germinate, although, as I have already stated, the plants are very slow growing. I have no doubt but what these plants would be very successful in the Middle States and through the south, but I question their hardihood here in New England. They would have to be treated very similarly to the rhododendron, being planted in a sheltered situation and well protected in the winter. If it is a possible thing I will get you a photograph of the plant, but I doubt very much about being able to do so, as our plants have been pretty badly cut back.

Since receiving the above letter from Mr. Manning it has been learned that there are two specimens of this holly at Highland Park, in this city. One of these is about eighteen inches high, the other over two feet. For winter protection these plants receive a good mulch over their roots each autumn, and are doing well; besides this, the superintendent, Mr. Dunbar, says that the plants receive no other attention. But it must be understood that the spot where these shrubs stand, in Highland Park, is



one which is very much protected by the land configuration, being sheltered from the north, west and south by hilly ground; also that all about stand numerous trees and shrubs. The situation is very different from that which would be found on most lawns with level ground and a free exposure. In the interview with Mr. Dunbar he stated that a plant of this holly in Central Park, New York, is nearly ten feet in height. It is well known that several kinds of trees and plants thrive in Central Park that will not do so in the northern and western part of the State; the ocean influence affects the winter temperature there, as it also does in New Jersey, where the American holly becomes a large tree. The American holly, as a shrub, also grows naturally along the New England coast, even north of Boston. It would be a great boon for our gardens if this Japanese holly should prove suitable, but the New England and northern and northwestern States can have but little to expect from it.



CYPERUS ALTERNIFOLIUS GRACILIS

#### THE GRACEFUL UMBRELLA PLANT.

**C**YPERUS ALTERNIFOLIUS GRACILIS, or, as it is popularly known, the graceful umbrella plant, is a very interesting and graceful greenhouse plant, differing from the parent variety in being of a more dwarf and graceful habit on account of its narrower leaves, which makes it all the more valuable for certain decorative purposes in the greenhouse or window garden, and as it is a plant of the easiest culture and rapid growth it can be placed in windows having a western or northern exposure.

In cultivation it should be given a compost of two-thirds turfy loam, one-third manure and a little bone dust. Give the plants as light a situation as possible, a temperature of from 55° to 60°, and an abundant supply of water both overhead and at the roots. When the pots become well filled with roots a little liquid manure should be given occasionally, or else the plants shifted on until they reach the desired size. During the summer months the plants should be plunged in a partially shaded situation where they can be properly supplied with water, and about the first of September taken up and repotted, so that they may become established before cold weather sets in. Propagation is effected by a careful division of the older plants and this should be done before the plants are plunged outside in May, so that it will give them an opportunity to develop into large specimens before they are wanted for use inside.

CHARLES E. PARNELL.

Long Island.

#### GROWING CYCLAMENS THE SECOND YEAR.

Most gardeners as well as market growers prefer to raise a batch of cyclamens every year rather than depend on old plants. Still, very good results are sometimes secured by growing on the bulbs the second season. A good deal depends on how the plants are treated in the interval between flowering and starting into fresh growth. Some have advised drying the bulbs quite off, but I have found this treatment results in the crowns refusing to start at all. I have found it better to remove them to quite a cool house and give a little water occasionally to prevent shriveling; then as soon as new leaves are forming freely, shake the plants out and repot, giving them a comfortable temperature until established, and then removing them to a cool frame. I have known one-year-old plants put out into frames in a bed of suitable compost, giving a south aspect and shading in the hottest part of the day, to do well, but I have never had much success in this way. Old plants may produce the most blooms, but young ones have the finest.—*Norwich, in The Garden.*

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## ROMAN HYACINTHS.

**I** CONSIDER this class of hyacinths about the best for general house culture, and recommend them to all flower-lovers as something which will meet their needs to a nicety and prove satisfactory under almost any circumstances. They have many points of excellence, and one of them is that they send up numbers of flower stalks; another thing in their favor is that they blossom nicely for Christmas, if potted by the first of September, and the flowers are beautiful for cutting. They are light, airy and graceful, and will remain in good condition for nearly a month if kept where the atmosphere is cool,—do not try to grow them in a room which is hot and dry.

To cultivate, fill a five-inch pot with friable garden loam, and mix with it a bit of leaf mold and sharp sand, first placing in the bottom of the pot a few inches of drainage material. Set three bulbs of desired colors in the soil, placing them about an inch below the surface; water well and set away in some place where they

will be in complete darkness, but not too cold or too warm. Do not remove to the window-garden until the bulbs have attained a good system of roots, shown by the green, healthy appearance of the leaves, even in the dark. Let them remain in this confinement for six weeks anyway,—longer will not hurt them in the least. On bringing them to the light do not set them in direct sunshine at first, but keep them in the shadiest corner of your window-garden for about a week.

A succession of bloom may be had during winter by planting bulbs at intervals from September on. In the garden they blossom almost with the crocus, and are very pretty there, but their more appropriate place is in the window-garden.

BENJ. B. KEECH.

\* \*

## HEADING BACK RASPBERRIES AND BLACKBERRIES.

There has always been some disagreement of opinion and practice among fruit-growers in regard to heading back raspberry and blackberry

plants, and probably something of this disagreement is due to the varied conditions of different localities. Mr. W. E. Andrews, of Brookdale Fruit Farm, Van Buren County, Mich., has this to say on the subject in *American Gardening*:

If you practice nipping off the new growth, do not neglect to do it in time—when the shoots are about twenty inches high. To do this work properly, it is necessary to go over the patch about three times, as the growth is apt to be far from uniform. To pinch back a cane when it has attained a height of two or three feet is worse than useless. Many growers favor this heading back process, and it is quite generally practised. Our own experience, however, seems to show that the canes winter better and bear larger berries when left to grow in nature's own way—simply cutting off, in the spring, the upper third of the cane. We have tried both methods for several years and carefully noted results, and the evidence appears to be against summer pruning. Of course, the shoots run up quite high when left to follow their own inclinations, and they are more apt to blow down than where pinched back; but we have found the damage from this source—taking the field as a whole—surprisingly small; yet no wires or stakes are used, and we doubt if the wind blows much harder anywhere than it does in this Lake Michigan fruit belt. We find an unlooked for advantage in the high, almost branchless, canes during the winter time, as regards the snow; stocky, low canes with many side laterals being often covered over with the drifting snow, which, when it melts, carries the laterals down with it—to their great damage.

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**New Jersey** market gardeners sow wintering-over lettuce the first half of this month.

**It is** hardly worth while to keep melon seed pure in a private garden; near-by cucumbers do the mischief.

**The Magazine** urges the wider planting of the Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus* or *Althaea*). It is charmingly floriferous at a season when hardly another shrub is in bloom.

**The plan** of bleaching celery in paper wrappers, now much in vogue, makes a fairly good looking article, but for our part we prefer the crispness that comes from earth contact.

**Plan** to excel last winter's supply of hyacinth and other bulb flowers. As you think of it this class of flowers gave you larger returns with less trouble than anything else in the window. Better profit by that experience.

**Okra.** It is strange that this delicious vegetable is not more in use in the north, after the manner of southern regions. The seed-pods when young are used in stews, soups, etc., and are matchless for imparting nourishment and delicacy of flavor. The pods may be sliced and dried like apples, in which they are well-suited for winter use.

**No summer** flowers are more satisfactory than the hemerocallis or day lilies. Of the easiest growth; of unsurpassing certainty to bloom; of the richest colors; of beautiful, noble habit, they are, indeed, everybody's flowers. Among the less common varieties, none excels the large orange colored *H. aurantiaca major*. The flowers are truly magnificent, of a pure, rich orange color.

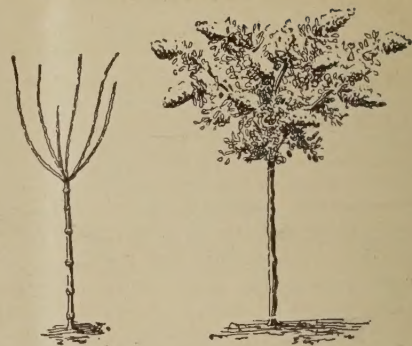
**Insects on the wane.** According to Secretary S. C. Parker, of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers association, the persistent, intelligent fight in recent years against insects, is being rewarded by a decided abatement in their numbers. He reported that the damage to crops the past season has, perhaps, been the least of any season in his experience. Two bad enemies, he says, remain, and both effecting the plum. These are the shot-hole fungus and the black gnat.

**Kissing bug nonsense.** Let but the newspapers start a dull-season fad to start much-needed news and how seriously people do rush

into the ruse. Take the recent kissing bug foolishness, and it is seen that any number of persons turn up claiming competency to determine that this or that insect is the new bug of newspaper notoriety. Why, in the writer's town, no less than five different bugs imprisoned under tumblers in store windows and labeled "kissing bug," have been brought to his attention. People are aroused on the subject by what the papers say, and for once they open their eyes to notice bugs and beetles. Presently they discover some creeping thing which, to their untrained eyes, looks different from anything they recall, and there you are—a kissing bug under a glass to surprise their wondering friends.

**"Punkins is punkins."** Sometimes the buyer of the coarser vegetables gets really more than he bargained for. A friend relates a case of this kind. His neighbor went to town with a load of pumpkins, which included specimens large and small. One of the citizens who had a fondness for pie of the great golden fruit, handed the marketman half a dollar, saying that when he had got pretty well through selling he might bring him the balance of the load. Now, if the reader has ever sold pumpkins, he may have noticed that well-developed small or moderate-sized ones sell first and best, because of the greater convenience in carrying. So this marketman let people pick and pick until only the large and slow-going specimens were left. Then he started to deliver the "balance" to the home of the citizen, who happened to be absent. His mother beheld the marketman carrying in armful after armful of the big cucurbitas and wondered what John wanted with so much pie material, until at last she asked the marketman to cease unloading. The marketman said they were paid for, and that any not needed for pie could be fed to the cow. But they had no cow. So there seemed no other way, and a bin was filled with the pumpkins that surprised the buyer by their bulkiness. Needless to say the neighbors for some distance around became sharers in John's purchase of the "balance" of the pumpkins. When one of the big fellows was cut it was divided around.

**Tree-like plume hydrangeas.** In that magnificent late summer shrub, *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora*, it is apparent that we have another quality that for a long time was unrecognized. We refer to its rare adaptability to the tree form of growth, which usually is unsuccessful in our flowering shrubs. In the case of the hydrangea referred to the tree form can be secured with little trouble. Indeed the nurserymen seeing how perfectly this hydrangea can be grown thus, are now raising it to that form in the nursery, and are selling veritable tree hydrangeas in large numbers. What makes one flowering shrub suited to be grown as a tree, and another not, may be asked? It is mainly a matter of the formation of a strong rigid stock or trunk. In this respect the hydrangea excels; the trunk is remarkably tree-like in character. The writer has sought to train Forsythias, viburnums and other shrubs as trees and has never met really satisfactory results, because of trunk weakness. The trunks would bend in a way too plainly indicating a top-heaviness not pleasant to behold. But the hydrangea trunk may be called very rigid, as much so as that of an apple or maple tree. In our engraving the part to the left shows the appearance of such a hydrangea at the time of planting, while the other figure represents the same two years later when carrying a load of



several dozen large flower heads. In this form it is an exquisite lawn tree, especially well-suited to embellish small town and village lots. In raising it in this form it is essential that the growth of a single erect shoot be encouraged for a trunk, the same to be well-furnished with lateral shoots for the first year, then to be cut away. The object of lateral branches along the prospective trunk is to bring about a strong development of the latter—a matter that can only be accomplished by the free growth of laterals. At the end of the season these are cut away, and a strong, sturdy trunk remains. A height of about three feet is a suitable one for the trunk of a tree hydrangea.

\* \*

#### MULCHING POTATOES, CABBAGE AND CAULIFLOWER.

The well-known horticulturist and writer, T. Greiner, advises in *The Farm and Fireside* the mulching of early potatoes to save them from the effects of summer drouth. He says:

Our usual summer drouth comes just at the time when the tubers are forming, and at this time an especially large and constant moisture supply is needed. Why not use the coarse manure then accumulating in the barnyard or outside the stables for this purpose? It has to be taken in the fields or garden at some time. We may as well put it out to bear interest at once.

The time it would take to cultivate the potatoes can be used to greater advantage in spreading the straw stuff all over the ground around the potato plants, so that not a bare spot is to be seen. Let the layer be thick enough to keep the weeds down. I can assure you that this will bring you the potatoes. If you have an especially choice late kind, by all means treat it in the same manner. The plan is somewhat similar to that of growing potatoes under straw, as frequently practised where straw is very plentiful and not as much appreciated for bedding and manuring as it is with me.

For late cauliflowers (and perhaps late cabbages, too), I hardly know how I could manage to do without the mulch. Cauliflowers like cool soil and plenty of soil moisture. The mulch of coarse manure fresh from the stables secures these conditions, and also helps to feed the ever-hungry plant. When the mulch is once put on we have done nearly everything that anybody could do for the plants. There is no more hoeing, no more weed-fighting, no watering. Rains will come sooner or later and furnish what the plants need. You will not often fail of getting good cauliflower-heads when you treat the plants in this way.

How does this method appear to those who practice constant cultivation of these crops? It could be applied only on a small scale.

\* \*

#### JAPAN IRIS AS A CUT FLOWER.

The Japan iris, when cut in the bud state and placed in water, opens its flowers beautifully and they continue to expand for several days. If the flowers are left to open on the plant they are liable to be disfigured or injured by the handling in gathering.

\* \*

#### One Way.

If each of our readers will renew his subscription, and influence one friend to subscribe for the MAGAZINE, how our subscription list will increase.





## A FLORICULTURAL MELANGE.

Although a flower crank for years, I never believed an Oriental poppy until yesterday. What a sight it was. Then and there I made a vow to have some of those gorgeous flowers, even if it did take two years to raise them, or rather before they come in bloom. To think that these magnificent (I am tempted to exhaust the adjectives of admiration) flowers can be obtained at the small expense of five cents and a little patience. If all my floricultural friends knew what a fine plant *Papaver orientale* is, there would not be seeds enough to go round.

Do not neglect the old-fashioned flowers; delphiniums, hollyhocks, perennial phlox, digitalis and aquilegias are all worthy of a place in our gardens, and when well-established amply repay any attention that is given to them.

Last spring I got a Japanese fern ball from James Vicks Sons, and, to tell the truth, I did not think much of it. To me it looked very unpromising, but it was watered regularly and proved a veritable surprise. I have it suspended in my little conservatory, where it gets plenty of light. It is full of fronds, which are steadily growing larger. Those who love ferns will make a mistake not to acquire one of these novelties.

In my opinion aristolochia and the Japanese hop are two of the best vines for the veranda or to hide unsightly outhouses or other objects. They grow quickly and are comparatively free of insects.

DR. HUGO ERICHSON.

++

## THE UMBRELLA PLANT.

This summer I bought an umbrella plant, *Cyperus alternifolius gracilis*. It was a thrifty looking plant and had a number of "umbrellas" when I bought it. I set it out in good rich soil, making it two-thirds black loam, and one-third thoroughly rotted manure. After the plant had rallied from its long journey and become accustomed to the change from greenhouse to common quarters, I put it in a south window, here it has stood a couple of months and maybe more, possibly ten weeks. It began growing very soon, and at this time it has thrown up eight umbrellas, and has two others coming above the ground, making in all ten fresh, new ones. The plant is really as pretty and graceful as a palm, and when it comes to growing and making a show the cyperus is very much ahead of any palm I ever cultivated or tried to cultivate. The foliage is, as its name suggests, something in shape like an umbrella, being composed of numerous strap-like leaves around a common center and forming a complete circle like the ribs of an umbrella. Some of the new shoots stand a foot and a half in height and the umbrella measures fourteen inches across, thus making a very pretty and graceful plant. It will grow with almost no care,—but it must have a little, and that little consists chiefly, as far as my experience goes, in applying water copiously. It is a good deal like the calla for needing water; the calla will live without water, but in its native haunts it is said to be found often growing in about a foot of mud and water. I don't keep my umbrella plant afloat, but the soil has never been allowed to dry out, and will not be. I can certainly recommend this plant to the novice who doesn't succeed with the palm and who wants something similar.

South Dakota.

ROSE SRELYE-MILLER.

++

## BLOOMS FOR BUSY-BODIES.

Listen, ye farmer women and overworked housewives everywhere! Does your soul long with intense longing for those most comforting of God's gifts, beautiful flowers, and does the mop, the churn, the table and the chickens absorb every bit of energy, so that those longings are never satisfied? Listen to advice from one who has overcome most of those difficulties. That great bare yard over-run with industrious hens may be transformed, if not into a city park, into something more satisfactory to yourself, even with your limited time and flat purse; only patience and perseverance are necessary.

Sitting by your favorite window mending socks, what spot seems the most forlorn? Is it that strip under the hedge where nothing grows? Then look for bulbs, early flowering bulbs, for they will grow where there is water enough for them and the hedge. The daffodil, which may be had around so many old homesteads for the asking, is as good as anything, and the golden flowers look better against the ever-

green background than anywhere else. Tulips also look well, with their stately stems and gaudy colors. You can plant large bulbs deep so the most persistent hen will be discouraged.

Or, is there an ugly locust tree, mostly trunk? Perhaps you have seen by the road-side a climbing bittersweet or a wild clematis. Stop when you go that way in spring or fall and get it. It will prove a treasure for years. Is there a dead evergreen against which your soul rebels? If so, you have a treasure if you can find a trumpet vine to plant by it. This very autumn plant two or three seeds of California cucumber around it. They will make a beautiful arbor and give the tree an excuse for standing until the trumpet vine gets large large enough to hang its showy flowers over it.

Perhaps the sunny side of that building is not inspiring. It would be if you could buy a clematis to put there. Let your first choice be *Clematis paniculata*. It is cheaper, but as good as any. It will pile its snowy blossoms in profusion over a trellis of chicken-wire. Or, if that is beyond you, you will have to take of your precious time to run strings every year.

There are hardy vines, bulbs, shrubs and plants enough to furnish a succession of bloom from March until frost, and the bittersweet and some others will be in glory all winter. There is nothing better than perennial phlox, you know the clumps of purple and white in grandmother's garden. Well, there are new plants in every shade from pure white to darkest crimson, with enormous florets of dozens of different markings. Some of them are in bloom from June until frost.

Watch the yard carefully and decide what you would like to see growing in each place. Read up about it, and if suitable get it. You can care for one or two perennial plants each year. Then they will take care of themselves, and repay you every year for all your trouble.

Ohio.

DAME DURDEN.

++

## AT LAZY LAWN.

It is a delicious afternoon in July. It has rained for a week, and the air is cool, the sun glorious, a brisk wind is tossing vines and leaves, and wafting the odor of nasturtium to me. I am flat upon my back in a hammock, with my pad perched against my knees. The hammock is on the south porch, which is covered with woodbine and wistaria. Between the leaves I catch glimpses of white clouds drifting across a deep blue sky, and see some pink roses belated upon the rose hedge. Across the avenue comes the sound of a girlish voice singing "The Holy City." The click, click of a horse's hoofs on the pavement below the terraces tells me a rubber-tire is going by. I am too lazy to turn my head. Mrs. Wren who is cuddling, with my hearty co-operation, three delightful blue eggs, in her nest basket among the syringa bush at the end of the porch, says "tweet, tweet;" once in a while I may go peep at her and she will cock a bright eye at me, very friendly. Two catbirds are scolding their babies up in the wistaria, and an oriole is carolling in the box elder. Altogether it is a day fit for the gods, a day to dream, to doze, and to write.

One of the most delightful of my experiences in the care of plants, is discovering what a plant is. That is to say, when I receive an unnamed plant, it is such a delight to study out what it is. I received an aspidistra, also a *Strobilanthes anisophyllus* in this way. It was long before I had them named. It was the same way with the torenia. The aspidistra had grown into a magnificent specimen before I spied a cut of it in a catalogue, and recognized it. I was as "tickled as a little dog with a nosegay tied to its tail," as David Harum said.

A house hydrangea was given me. Its little head was snapped off accidentally. I stuck it in the azalea pot, and promptly forgot all about it. Along in the summer I discovered a six-inch hydrangea in the azalea pot, and could not for the life of me, at first decide where it came from. I decided the fairies put it there. Then I remembered!

Impatiens Sultani, is such a brave willing fellow, one forgives him his unapproachable color, just bordering on the magenta, yet hanging on manfully to rose. Any twig will root, at any time. I shall pot an ordinary balsam this fall and see if it will do as well. A plant of *Impatiens Sultani* looks well in a group of palms. That is about the only place it harmonizes, though.

The Norfolk pine is truly a handsome thing. I like it better than some palms. I scorched my poor pine, until it turned a lively jaundice color, by setting it on front steps, where everyone could see it. The sun smote the pot too heavily, so I removed it to a cooler place and let it regain its tone. A jardiniere packed

with moss is a good place to set the pot holding the pine. *Farfugum grande* is always a great favorite of mine. It likes sand and moisture, or red spider will attack it, and its leaves will rot. It is always a source of wonder to me that succulents can stand much heat, and many other hard looking plants can not.

The "mums" have grown into bushes. I pinched them back and have given them fertilizer until they are enormous. I expect a great harvest. The violet bed has been given fertilizer too. The bed which holds them is behind the rose hedge, out of sight. Two cosmos which I succeeded in raising from seeds have grown five feet, branched, with a stalk at the base fully three inches across.

Who ever heard of a mole plant. One was sent me. It is about eighteen inches tall, with silver-green leaves and a pulpy stalk. It is said to drive away moles. I am wondering if it is hardy, and how I shall treat it. I also have a *cicuta* which is a stranger to me. It has pretty variegated leaves, but I am hopelessly in the dark concerning it.

And now, the clinkety click of a horse's hoofs announce that a rubber-tired buggy has stopped at our steps, and I am not at all lazy in turning my head this time, nor of hopping out of the hammock and hurrying down the walk to greet the occupant. So for to-day, enough.

GEORGINA G. SMITH.

Iowa.

\* \*

## THE FOREST CATERPILLAR.

In a communication to the *American Agriculturist*, Mr. E. P. Powell tells of the attacks on the trees of the forest and the tent caterpillars. The forest caterpillars besides attacking a greater variety of trees are, also, much more difficult to contend with than the tent caterpillars.

This I have learned, that the worms will not touch the Norway maples nor Weirs' cut-leaved maple, and as a rule they avoid the soft maples. They do not attack catalpa or English elms or persimmon or paw-paw, and dislike the pear and cherry. They attack furiously apple, quince, plum, maple, elm, ash and oak trees. They will invade a raspberry patch if not watched, but do not eat the blackberry or strawberry. The sweet cherries they much prefer to the sour. I conclude from my observations of all sorts of insects that the Norway maple is our best street tree, as well as the grandest lawn tree in existence. When the worm entered my raspberries we resorted to hand picking every morning. My crops are safe, but there are not a few who have lost all their apples. It will very decidedly reduce the apple output for Central New York.

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**RUBBER**—In Report to the British Government by Sir Henry H. Dering, Minister to Mexico, he estimates that each rubber tree will at least pay an annual net profit of one dollar.

**COFFEE**—In his Report to U. S. Government, Hon. T. T. Crittenden, Consul General, quotes the following: "The value of a coffee plantation in full bearing is calculated at the rate of \$1.00 per grown tree." Estimates as to the profits vary, but the least

In Tropical Mexico an annual profit of \$200 to \$400 per acre is not unusual. When rubber trees mature and begin bearing they continue producing for thirty to forty years, insuring for their owner an annual net income of at least \$2,000 from a plantation of twenty-five acres.

of them show enormous profits,—something like 100 per cent. per annum on the capital employed."

From report of Consul General Pollard: "Southern Mexico is rich in agricultural resources. Coffee, Cocoa, Rubber, Bananas, Rice, Sugar cane, Pineapples, and all the fruits and grains of temperate zones can be cultivated and will yield enormous returns."

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## SELECT VARIETIES OF STRAW-BERRIES.

J. H. Hale, of Connecticut, reporting to *American Gardening* of the strawberry crop, makes the following selection of the most valuable or profitable varieties: For the medium, light and sandy soils of the country, Excelsior, Clyde, Haverland and Splendid; for the heavier soils, Clyde, Glen Mary, Pride of Cumberland, Maximus, Morgan's Favorite, Excelsior, and Parker Earle Improved. He recommends Carrie as a pollenizing variety for Haviland, saying:

Carrie, a perfect blooming variety, very much like the Haverland, does not appear to be quite as productive as that variety, but is somewhat firmer and even better quality. I would advise everyone planting Haverland for market to pollenize it with the Carrie, then the two varieties can be marketed together, which is sometimes not easy to do with a pistillate variety, which is pollenized with a perfect blooming sort, which has a berry of distinct style and ripening at different seasons.

\* \*

## GERMINATING ROSE SEED.

Probably not many of our readers are attempting to originate new varieties of roses from seed, but, as the treatment of rose seed is frequently inquired about it may be well to learn what a correspondent, G. W. O., of the *Florist's Exchange* has to advise in relation to starting seedlings:

Rose seed, either hybridized or otherwise, is apt to be a trifle disappointing to one experimenting with it for the first time. The seed is inside the little nutlike process, which one is very apt to mistake for the true seeds. It depends altogether on the time that this little nut takes to decompose or become soft whether germination will take place soon after sowing or be long delayed. Again if the nuts are sown in a soil which gets covered with a coniferoid or mossy growth, and the soil becomes waterlogged or sour, the chances are that the seed and seed vessel will decompose at the same time, I find the best plan is

to sow the seeds on the surface of a carefully mixed and well-firmed soil, and then cover with white sand. If necessary both sand and seed may be easily removed from time to time, the sand screened from the seed and resown. This will often hasten germination by giving a fresh supply of the constituents in the soil, which help in the decomposition of the seed vessel. The cotyledons or seed leaves, two small, almost round little bodies, about an eighth of an inch in diameter, will appear above the sand very quickly after the seed begins vegetating. They should not be allowed to remain any time after they are first noticed; a few hours' delay is often sufficient to cause them to damp off. Carefully raise the seedling with a thin sharp-pointed stick and transfer to the edge of a pot of very firm soil. In this way every seedling can be saved. In potting off plunge the pots in damp sand; this will do away with the necessity of frequent watering.

\* \*

## A NEW DAY LILY.

A new variety of Hemerocallis is announced. It is a cross between the newly introduced H. aurantiaca major and H. Thunbergii, and the habit of the plant is said to be intermediate between the parents. Flower spike three to four feet in height, branching, and each branch producing from six to seven flowers. Flower when expanded about six inches in diameter; outer divisions yellow, suffused orange, inner ones a clear canary color. The originator is A. Harrington, of Madison, N. J.

\* \*

S. T. H., Norwood, Ohio, writes: "Permit me to say that your floral editorials for comprehension and accuracy are the best I read in all the journals of floriculture and agriculture. They give definite and satisfactory information instead of the fulsome exaggerations that lessen the usefulness of many publications devoted to flowers and shrubs. May your new form of the MAGAZINE prove a decided success."

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